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SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" May I know, Sir, if there is any law to bring to book factory owners who do not abide by the provisions of the Factories Act and deprive workers of whatever is given in the provisions of the Act in their favour? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Factories Act provides for penalties for those who do not abide by that Act."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Sir, as these branches are not coming under the purview of the Factories Act, will the Government consider the question of bringing these branches under the Non-power Factories Act which was passed during the regime of the previous Congress Ministry? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The hon. Gentleman has misunderstood me. Branches do come under the Factories Act, provided they have got ten persons. But if there are factories employing less than ten persons, they will come under the Shop Assistants Act."

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH :—" Sir, will the Government consider disallowing the opening of branches by the beedi factory owners as these involve a lot of difficulties for the beedi workers, and the factory owners are refusing to give bonuses and D.A. according to the Tribunal awards? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I am afraid the Government at the present moment have no power to prevent the formation of branch factories."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, I rise on a point of order. The Hon. Minister has not given a satisfactory answer to the question. I request the Hon. Speaker to allow a half-hour debate to-day. This is a very important question."

MR. SPEAKER :—" This is not a point of order. To-morrow we will discuss the Industries Demand. I will allow the hon. Member 15 minutes to speak on that Demand."

Culinary essences.

* 143 Q.—JANAB K. M. SEETHI : Will the Hon the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any reports of the wide-spread consumption of culinary essences containing 75 per cent to 81 per cent of alcohol for drink in the district of Malabar and if so, when;

(b) whether some deaths have resulted in the district from an excessive use of the said essences; and

(c) whether the Government propose to prohibit the use of the said essences?

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" (a) The Government have received reports from time to time of

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widespread consumption of so-called culinary essences containing high percentage of alcohol prepared for the obvious purpose of serving as beverage alcohol in the district of Malabar on 1st December 1951 and elsewhere.

" (b) No, Sir. They are harmless except in the way of causing intoxication which depends on the quantity drunk and the ratio of dilution. Of course, excessive drinking of this stuff which is almost double proof strength will occasionally cause death and that is a good deterrent of the abuse.

" (c) Government have recently issued orders regulating the sale, possession and consumption of culinary essences in this State."

JANAB K. M. SEETHI :—" May I know, Sir, whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a certain press report relating to deaths having taken place on account of the excessive use of these culinary essences in the Malabar district? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER :—" No, Sir. I am obliged to the hon. Member for the information."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, have the Government taken care to check the post-mortem reports of death caused by drinking these essences to find out the quality of these essences; and whether denatured spirit instead of real spirit is being used? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Hon. Members may have noticed that very strict orders have been issued now making it impossible for these culinary essences being abused as have been referred to. These culinary essences are not made from denatured spirit. They are made from simple alcohol cent per cent, mixed with a slight quantity of flavour in order to palm it off under the old law of culinary essences and serve it to those who want beverage alcohol. It will be no longer possible."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" May I know, Sir, how the licence system prevents the addicts from drinking, as they are at liberty to take in whatever quantity they want from the licence holder? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" No, Sir. The rules prevent this."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister stated ' they are harmless except in the way of causing intoxication which depends on the quantity drunk and the ratio of dilution. Of course, excessive drinking of this stuff which is almost double proof strength will occasionally cause death and that is a good deterrent of the abuse.' May I know, Sir, whether, before giving this answer, the Government have taken the opinion of experts that these essences are not dangerous? "

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Yes, Sir. We have taken expert assistance in the matter. We have examined the stuff. We have given every attention. Therefore, the present rules prevent the free sale of these things as had been prevailing hitherto."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, if according to the expert opinion, they are harmless as the Hon. Minister said, why should their sale be regulated? "

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Nobody said they were harmless. They are harmless except in the way of causing intoxication. The popular notion of many people who do not know the subject is that this is a poisonous stuff like, for instance, boot polish or varnish or things like that. That is not the case. These are essences which have been long in use, and if properly made, a drop of it can be put in ice cream and things like that. But to-day it has been misused. Regular importation from the neighbouring Province of absolute alcohol is arranged for with a little flavour mixed with it. It would not serve any purpose in the kitchen but it would only serve the purpose of misuse as beverage alcohol."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, from the answer and the clarification given by the Hon. the Chief Minister, it is clear that the answer prepared by the Department concerned does not conform to facts. Will the Hon. the Chief Minister hereafter pay some attention to the work of drafting these answers? " 11-30 a.m.

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Sir, this was not prepared by the Department. I might convey to the hon. the Leader of the Opposition in a whisper that this answer was prepared by me." (Laughter.)

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF INDUSTRIES.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I have to announce to the House that Sri S. S. Ramasamy Padayachi, M.L.A., is the only candiate validly nominated to fill a seat in the Board of Industries. I hereby declare him duly elected."

III.—VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1952-53—*cont.*

(1) DEMAND XV—EDUCATION—*cont.*

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member Mr. Nagarajan will now speak."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, of the manifold problems that have confronted us recently, Education is one."

(At this stage, several hon. Members were seen leaving the Chamber.)